

EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS
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10TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

**OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM**
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
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November 18, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

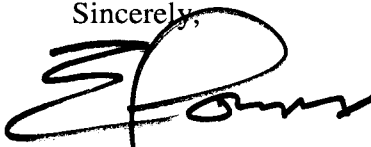
Cablevision plans to go all-digital in New York City early next year and has requested permission from the Federal Communications Commission to encrypt the basic signal at the same time. Cablevision going 100% digital and encrypting the signal will deliver tremendous benefits to my constituents and I urge you to grant Cablevision's request.

The FCC has long encouraged cable operators to go "all-digital." If Cablevision is able to encrypt, too, it could turn service on and off remotely rather than sending a technician out to the premises. That means consumers would no longer need to pay for a technician to install their service or take time off work to stay home to wait for a cable technician. This is particularly important in New York City, where cable technicians must coordinate not only the customer's schedule but also the schedule of the building manager to access a basement lock-box. Finally, it would mean up to 400,000 fewer truck rolls through our city each year, with the accompanying environmental benefits of reduced traffic, carbon emissions, and gasoline usage.

I understand that 99% of Cablevision's customers in New York City take digital service. For the 1% of customers who currently have analog service, Cablevision has committed to ease the transition to digital by offering two free set top boxes for two years to ensure there are not any service disruptions. In addition, if there are any digital customers who also need an additional set top box, one will be provided to them free for one year.

Overall, I think that the benefits of increased consumer convenience and improvements to the environment make granting Cablevision's petition in the public interest, and I urge you to act expeditiously.

Sincerely,



Edolphus "Ed" Towns
Member of Congress

23 NOV 2009 RCUD

CC: William Lake, Chief, Media Bureau
Sherrese Smith, Legal Advisor to Chairman Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 2, 2010

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
U.S. House of Representatives
2232 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

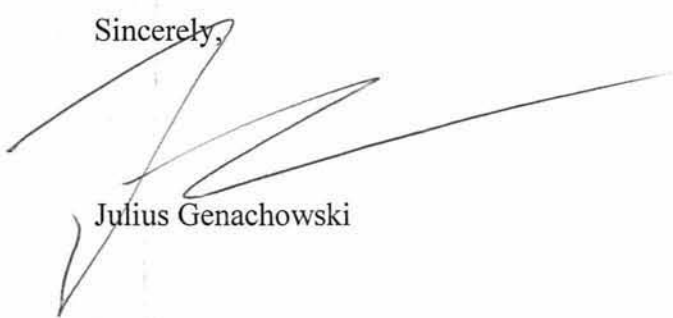
Dear Congressman Towns:

Thank you for your letter regarding a Petition for Waiver that Cablevision Systems Corporation filed with the Commission. Cablevision had requested a waiver of the Commission's rule (76.630(a)) prohibiting encryption of the basic service tier by a cable television system operator.

I am pleased to report that on January 8, 2010, the Commission's Media Bureau approved Cablevision's waiver request subject to certain conditions, including a requirement for Cablevision to submit regular reports describing the number of customer complaints received relating to the waiver. This reporting requirement will help to inform the Commission on the further utility of the encryption rule. I am enclosing a copy of the Bureau's *Order* for your information.

I appreciate learning your views on this important matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

Enclosure